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Agenda item 3

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 23 March 2018

37/23. Promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling all relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Reaffirming also that all human rights derive from the dignity and worth inherent in the human person and that the human person is the central subject of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and consequently should be the principal beneficiary and should participate actively in the realization of these rights and freedoms,

Reaffirming further that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, all States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, have the duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming that the work of the Human Rights Council shall be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation, with a view to enhancing the promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development,

Acknowledging the important role that mutually beneficial cooperation among all relevant stakeholders can play in promoting and protecting all human rights in an increasingly interrelated world,

Emphasizing the responsibility of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to develop and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Emphasizing also that genuine dialogue and cooperation in the field of human rights should be constructive and based on universality, indivisibility, non-selectivity, non-politicization, equality and mutual respect, with the aim of promoting mutual understanding, expanding common ground and strengthening constructive cooperation, including through capacity-building and technical cooperation,

Considering that international cooperation in the field of human rights, in conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter and international law and based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue, makes an effective and practical contribution to preventing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and strengthening the capacity of States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Recognizing the importance of technical assistance and capacity-building provided in consultation with, and with the consent of, the States concerned in promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recognizing also the role of the universal periodic review in, inter alia, promoting the universality, interdependence, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights, establishing a cooperative mechanism based on objective and reliable information and on interactive dialogue, and ensuring universal coverage and equal treatment of all States in contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights and mutually beneficial cooperation,

Recognizing further that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations in the field of human rights could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation in this field,

Recognizing the importance of fostering international relations based on mutual respect, fairness, justice and mutually beneficial cooperation, and of building a community of shared future for human beings in which human rights are enjoyed by all,

1. *Calls upon* all States to uphold multilateralism and to work together to promote mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights, and encourages other stakeholders, including international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations, to contribute actively to this endeavour;

2. *Reiterates* the important role of technical assistance and capacity-building in promoting and protecting human rights, calls upon States to strengthen human rights technical assistance and capacity-building through mutually beneficial cooperation, upon the request of and in accordance with the priorities set by the States concerned, and welcomes in this regard North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the universal periodic review as a mechanism based on cooperation and constructive dialogue with the objective of, inter alia, improving the situation of human rights on the ground and promoting the fulfilment of the human rights obligations and commitments undertaken by States, and calls upon all States and relevant stakeholders to participate constructively in it;

4. *Invites* relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutually beneficial cooperation in promoting and protecting all human rights;

5. *Requests* the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to conduct a study on the role of technical assistance and capacity-building in fostering mutually beneficial cooperation in promoting and protecting human rights, and to submit a report thereon to the Human Rights Council before its forty-third session.

54th meeting
23 March 2018

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 28 to 1, with 17 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland]